

Please find the notes that were gathered at the NENA Board meeting Held 09/26/13
Blueprint for Equity Listening Session Notes

Question #1 –

- NENA has Latino Organizer existing (e.g. special outreach, recent Monarch Festival)
- Est. 80% white, 10% Latino and 10% African American and AS -Represented on local business association as charter member
- Bossen Initiative (churches, property owners, tenants, 400 units of section 8 housing, St. Stephens, renters, and CM Quincy)
- Affordable housing projects (200 units) NENA has supported over the past 5 years
- Event night before New Years Eve (NENA provided transportation to residents via church partnership - event 100% free to community)
- NENA board demo largely represents the neighborhood composition
- An opportunity for more teaches of color at Keewaydin School (none at the present moment)
- Wenohnah similar to Keewaydin School
- NO black or Latino leaders within the neighborhood Park staff in the neighborhood is diverse

Question #2

- People talk about properties for sale or being foreclosed upon; perception by others that this is a rough area -mini blog conversations about crime (burglaries) west side by Washburn (recited hanging doll incident and media attention, we are not racist vie of some involved)
- Food fight was not racist (south HS) idea of separatism
- NENA staff met with community education; all the kids were very embarrassed by public coverage
- South HS incident
- Now students get along -Neighbors talk about "hunter gatherers" in alley system; small houses in Morris Park (high turnover); have never heard concerns about who is moving in/out -bus stops have unsupervised children; horseplay and rough housing
- Not just one race but all; bashed out glass at bus shelters
- Bossen renters group little information from City/globally
- Situation not improved
- Need to hear from the city on issues (e.g. chapter 249, condemnations, eminent domain concerns)
- Residents have fear about reporting problems; don't want to attract unwanted attention; people have been displaced in the past inclusion is more than race and ethnic

Question #3

- Churches, schools (public and charter) business community and NENA
- Block clubs
- Almost no cooperation between block clubs and NENA
- Been this way for years; systematic with MPD
- Parks
- MPS lack diversity in local area schools
- Minneapolis/Hennepin Public Libraries -property owners (well-maintained ones)
- City Council members moved away from direct involvement

Question #4

- Monarch festival, night before new year's - 2 events that NENA founded
- Outreach to Latino community
- Still has problem spot in Bossen; transient population; hard to engage renters, socioeconomic barriers (20 year volunteer)
- Intentional and thoughtful describes NENA approach
- Aztec dancers used for event
- Make repeated efforts; develop real relationship

Other thoughts:

- Seems to be an attitude that there is exclusion -NCR funded program - boundary driven by geographic neighborhood boundaries -perception that funding is moving away from neighborhood organization (e.g. Nexus -NCR - perception that city is shifting away from neighborhood orgs to social service organizations -legislative mandate on NRP - neighborhood revitalization -former NRP program 52.5% housing required (due to early funding not meeting requirements)
- NRP was bottom up grass roots
- Prior experience was top down NCR
- Decisions under NRP were bottom up
- See areas of NCR funding on areas that are political hot buttons (e.g diversity)
- Get NCR documents and don't know they are saying (90% jargon)
- Contrast with One Minneapolis Fund grant recipient language
- NCR needs to hire a good writer
- 2014 request for \$500K insane; should be based upon effectiveness not demand
- Concern about lack of honest process and prior process
- NENA feedback goes into a black hole - ideas not used and no NCR explanation given